

Inspiring tomorrow's innovators

5 5E

Que Al zin

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Spring Cleaning and Spring Break: A Business Case for Both

By Lt. Col. John K. Baker San Francisco District Commander

The first half of this fiscal year has provided us with enough challenges for the entire year. Sequestration and planning for furloughs, along with declining workload and budget projections for future years, have caused stress and anxiety. However, the San Francisco District has continued to accomplish its mission. Our team has maintained its professionalism and commitment-thank you. We may be able to frame our reaction to these challenges as "spring cleaning," and for our efforts, each of us is due a "spring break."

The challenges brought on by sequestration have forced us to prioritize our efforts on the most essential and important work, and to ask ourselves the important question of "What can we stop doing?"

We cannot expect to do more with less or even the same for less. The threat of furloughs has further caused most of us to look at our personal and family finances, and some may have begun cutting back on their expenses and quality of life. Perhaps this effort is helping employees identify some



unnecessary and discretionary expenses.

Our analysis of the Congressional FY13 Continuing Resolution and finalization of the FY 14 annual budget are ongoing. We still do not know the full impacts on our district. While the process is stressful, we have competent supervisors and leaders making well-educated, risk-informed decisions. As we build our budgets, we are prioritizing the most necessary and cost-effective expenses that provide the greatest Value to our Nation for the present and future.

No too many enjoy Spring Cleaning, but it's often a necessary task.

FY 13 has brought difficult times, yet our entire Team has displayed patience, commitment and professionalism. We all need a break to reward ourselves and our families. Reward yourself and your family by taking advantage of the great day trips and weekend getaways in the San Francisco Bay area. Visit the Bay Model Visitor Center in Sausalito, Lake Sonoma or Lake Mendocino or one of your favorite getaways spots.

Enjoy a Spring Break - you deserve it.

Together, we will overcome our challenges, as the San Francisco District has done since 1866 and accomplish the USACE mission to "Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, strengthen our economy, and reduce risk from disaster."

Thank you again for your continued service.

Essayons! Building Strong!



SPN Surveyor is an unofficial publication published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District, its diverse workforce and stakeholders. SPN Surveyor is a bimonthly publication distributed via e-mail and made available at www.spn.usace.army.mil.

District Commander

Deputy Commander MAJ Christopher W. Crary

Editor

J.D. Hardesty john.d.hardesty@usace.army.mil

<u>Staff Contributors</u> Brandon Beach brandon.a.beach@usace.army.mil

Ryan McClymont ryan.j.mcclymont@usace.army.mil

Geyserville High School, Friends of Lake Sonoma volunteers construct sign frames

By J.D. Hardesty District Public Affairs Office

eyserville High School volunteers and members of the Friends of Lake Sonoma, a non-profit organization, teamed to build sign frames and brackets to bring the park's first selfguided trail experience for the public to fruition.

San Francisco District Commander Lt. Col. John K. Baker presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Geyserville High School Principal Katherine Hadden for the 280 hours of volunteer hours donated by Geyserville Industrial Arts Teacher Joseph "Tony" Pettis and three of his students—Jacob Baumgardner, Ana Bertha Cervantes and Mike White.

With a \$700 Friends of Lake Sonoma donation, the volunteers' valueadded frame and bracket construction saved park over the \$17,000.

Pettis and the students constructed metal frames and brackets for seven informational signs located along the Woodland Ridge Trail that provide the park's first self-guided trail



Hardesty SPN Commander Lt. Col. John Baker presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Geyserville High School Principal Katherine Hadden Feb. 20 at Lake Sonoma.

experience to the public.

For daily news from Lake Sonoma ranger staff, visit them on Facebook at: http:// on.fb.me/ZjBJrO

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

5

7

8

9

11

12

12

FEATURE STORIES

SPN crew members clear out debris pilings at San Francisco pier for America's Cup preparations

Project Report: District constructs new breakwater system at Oyster Point Marina

School's in Session: Army leaders talk American history at San Francisco elementary school; district employees volunteer at UC Berkeley STEM outreach event

PEOPLE & ACTIVITIES

Photo Feature: Inside the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery

District's public website gets overhaul

Celebrating Women's History Month with a tribute to women in STEM fields

Corps uses new planning tool to build coastal resilience

Employee News

Learn more about CAPE Training on Page 12



On the cover

Lisa Andes, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District coastal engineer, leads a group of elementary-age schoolchildren through a hands-on activity simulating coastal erosion during Engineering for Kids Day March 16. The event, held at the University of California, Berkeley, was one of several volunteer outreach opportunities in March where district employees had the chance to share their talents and expertise with local schoolchildren. (Photo by Brandon Beach)

Path to Innovation

Women, mentors and STEM



A staff member from the Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed Project helps a student get a plant into the ground during an educational outreach event at the Hamilton Wetland Restoration Project near Novato, Calif., last year.

By Heidi Kleinbach-Sauter Special to "SPN Surveyor"

hen I was named as one of the 100 Women Leaders in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in 2012, I was thrilled by the honor of being named to the list, but troubled by the need for the list itself. Sadly, women are vastly underrepresented in the ranks of STEM professionals.

In general, we aren't graduating enough qualified professionals in STEM in the United States, and women are an even smaller percentage of this group. While this is a complex problem, I believe that one of the biggest challenges is a lack of credible mentors in the field to excite and inspire students and young employees about the myriad career opportunities that can result from a STEM education.

For me, as a high school graduate, I didn't have a clear picture of what I could do with a math or engineering degree as I was trying to decide on the right education to fit my passions and talents. When I think about the amazing experiences and opportunities I've had working on innovation in highly scientific and technical environments throughout my entire career, it strikes me how lucky I am to have taken this career path. But I had no idea what

Continued page 12



Steve Rohner [right], a Dillard crew member, coordinates from shore with Port of San Francisco employees during the piling removal mission at Pier 23.

SPN crew members clear out debris pilings at SF pier for America's Cup

By Ryan McClymont District Public Affairs Office

From Sept. 7-22, the city of San Francisco will host the 34th running of the America's Cup with the city's own Oracle Team USA defending their 2010 title.

As the competition dates quickly approach, the city of San Francisco is in a race of its own to complete construction of several locations to house the execution of the event. One of the locations is the James R. Herman Cruise Terminal at Pier 27, which will be used as the America's Cup headquarters during the race.

To help meet the city's

"We are very safety conscious, and I think that is what we bring to the table as a federal organiztion."

> **Kixon Meyer** Captain of the John A.B. Dillard, Jr.

deadline, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District command vessel John A.B. Dillard, Jr. was requested by the Port of San Francisco to aid in the removal of deteriorated pilings at piers 23 and 27.

"When the first America's Cup races happened in September [2012], the port approached us and that is when we got the relationship rolling, and we realized that we could help each other by assisting America's Cup and making sure our cities and our piers are ready to go," said Kixon Meyer, captain of the Dillard.

All along the pier, deteriorated and rotting pilings pose

a danger to vessels trying to dock there. The Dillard's mission was to assist port employees in safely removing those dangers. Lines were attached from selected pilings to the Dillard's pedestal-mounted grapple crane. A port employee then used a blow torch to cut through bolts holding the decayed piling to the pier. Once the piling was cut free, the crane operator rotated the piling onto the deck of the Dillard for later disposal.

"The relationship between the port and the Army Corps is extremely important, so we are working hand and hand to make sure we are taking care

Continued next page April/May 2013



Ray Santos, a Dillard crew member, removes lines and secures a rotted piling on the deck of the Dillard. The collected pilings, along with other debris, are taken to Sausilito, Calif., where they are stored and then disposed of.

continued ...

of what the public considers to be our job, which is keeping these waterways clear," said Meyer.

The Dillard will continue to support preparations leading up to the America's Cup and will be joined by the Raccoon, another San Francisco District debris removal vessel, to provide debris removal capabilities during the races to ensure a safe and successful running of the event.

"We do this every day, so we are very practiced at it. We are very safety conscious, and I think that is really what we bring to the table as a federal organization," said Meyer.



San Francisco's historic Coit Tower can be viewed in the background as a 40-foot piling is slowly lifted out of the bay and onto the deck of the Dillard.

[Left] A Port of San Francisco employee uses a blow torch to cut through metal supports holding a deteriorated piling to Pier 23. [Above] The new James R. Herman Cruise Terminal will house the America's Cup headquarters during the race—Sept. 7-21, 2013. [Right] Richard Curry uses the Dillard's pedestalmounted grapple crane to lift a rotted piling from the bay onto the Dillard's deck.

April/May 2013

SPN constructs new breakwater system at Oyster Point Marina

By Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District and the San Mateo County Harbor District marked the completion of a \$7.8 million breakwater system at Oyster Point Marina, near South San Francisco, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 22.

The project goals were twofold: to widen the marina entrance, while decreasing wave agitation in the harbor.

The first goal was met in 2009 with a modification to the original breakwater system, constructed back in 1978.

Widening the entrance has now allowed larger ships, such

as the Water Emergency Transportation Authority's passenger ferry, which opened a terminal at Oyster Point in 2012, to enter the harbor.

That phase was followed by the construction of an in-basin floating breakwater system in late 2012.

"These modifications allow larger vessels to access Oyster Point safety and efficiently," said Lt. Col. John Baker, San Francisco District commander, during his remarks, adding, "Our center of gravity is the Bay, and supporting economic development in this area is a key component of our mission."

Construction of the project was done by Yerba Buena Engineering & Construction, a San Francisco-based firm.

About the photos

[Inset left] Mark Nagales, field representative for Congresswoman Jackie Speier, presents Lt. Col. John Baker, SPN commander, with a certificate of appreciation for the Corps' role in the Oyster Point Breakwater Modification Project.

[Middle] South San Francisco Mayor Pedro Gonzales discusses the regional benefits of the new ferry terminal at Oyster Point Marina, which opened last year, during his remarks Feb. 22.

[Right] Agency representatives cut the ceremonial ribbon Feb. 22 marking the completion of a \$7.8 million breakwater modification project at Oyster Point Marina. Pictured (l-r) is Lt. Col John Baker, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District commander; Sabrina Brennan, San Mateo County Harbor District (SMCHD) commissioner; Pedro Gonzales, South San Francisco mayor; Peter Grenell, SMCHD general manager; James Tucker, SMCHD president; Mark Nagales, representative for Congresswoman Jackie Speier; and Miguel Galarza, president of Yerba Buena Engineering.

School's in Session

Army leaders talk American history

Story & photos by Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

San Francisco District gave a history lesson to second-graders at Redding Elementary School in San Francisco March 7.

Joining Lt. Col. John Baker, district commander, to talk about the American Revolutionary War was Maj. Chris Crary, deputy district commander, Maj. Ryan Thompson, SPN Engineering Branch acting chief, and Sgt. Eric Nguyen, district operations non-commissioned officer.

Their hour-long presentation contrasted the uniforms/equipment of soldiers then and now and highlighted the origin of the Corps of Engineers and the Army values.

[Top] District Commander Lt. Col. John Baker talks with second-grade students at Redding Elementary School in San Francisco March 7 about the American Revolutionary War and history of the Army Corps of Engineers. [Right] Sgt. Eric Nguyen, SPN Operations NCO, helps Ismael Veloz, 8, a second-grader at Redding Elementary School, try on an IBA jacket. [Middle] Spencer Ng, 8, a second-grader at Redding Elementary School, tries to answer a question posed by Lt. Col. John Baker March 7. [Far Right] Maj. Ryan Thompson, SPN Engineering Branch acting chief, discusses the uniforms worn by soldiers from the Continental and British armies.

District employees make waves at "Engineering for Kids Day"

By Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

They launched bottle rockets and programmed robots. More than 400 Bay Area elementaryschool students learned science can be fun during Engineering for Kids Day March 16 at UC Berkeley.

For the second year in a row, the San Francisco District sent several of its employees to this annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics event, hosted by the UC Berkeley engineering community.

This year, Lisa Andes, coastal engineer, Tessa Beach, environmental planner, and Justin Yee, regulatory project manager, taught students about coastal engineering by setting up a handson activity that simulated waves and beach erosion.

All that was needed was a plastic container, bag of sand, jug of water and plenty of imagination.

Lisa Andes, SPN coastal engineer, middle, and Tessa Beach, SPN environmental planner, watch as elementary-age schoolkids take turns making waves in a plastic container at Engineering for Kids Day March 16.

Story & photos by Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

A state of the state and local agencies March 15 to provide them with a rare hands-on look at their steelhead trout and coho salmon recovery operations.

The facility, which is fully funded by the Corps of Engineers, is operated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It was built in 1980 to mitigate for the loss of spawning habitat for salmon and trout. This habitat was blocked by the construction of Warm Springs Dam at Lake Sonoma, which is located on Dry Creek, a tributary of the Russian River, 10 miles northwest of the town of Healdsburg.

The hatchery is one part of the Milt Brandt Visitor Center run by the Corps, which provides the biological, cultural and anthropological natural history of Dry Creek Valley. More than 200,000 people visit the hatchery and visitor center annually.

[1] Josh Quigley and Jennifer Tang, field representatives for U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, work together to squeeze milt from a male steelhead.
[2] Christine Vosher, scientific aid with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, prepares the eggs into bowls to be fertilized March 15.
[3] Skipp Henderson, a seasonal aid at the Don Clausen Fish Hatchery, measures a steelhead March 15 during the annual "fish squeezing" event.
[4] Patrick Rutten, left, California/Pacific Islands supervisor for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, gets tips on handling fish from Bryan Freele, U.S. Fish & Wildlife technician.

Lost and Found in the Bay

Kixon Meyer, captain of the MV John A. B. Dillard, Jr., and his crew of debris collection workers spend most of their days pulling out over-sized logs and sunken boats from the waters of the San Francisco Bay. So it was a bit of a surprise March 25 to pull a Buick Enclave from the Berkeley Marina boat ramp. It was taken to the district's debris yard in Sausalito for disposal.

San Francisco District website gets new look

By Ryan McClymont District Public Affairs Office

isit the San Francisco District website and you will notice an updated look and feel, On March 25, SPN followed USACE Headquarters and other divisions and districts in the migration of its main public website to the American Forces Public Information Management System (AFPIMS).

Website and social media presence has become the Corps of Engineers number one communication tool. The objective of the change was to create a consistent look and feel across all USACE websites and to streamline the content management process while delivering a rich end-user experience. The new format is an overhaul to SPN's public web presence and will improve communication with stakeholders, increase transparency and deliver fast, easily-accessible content.

"It was a lot of work migrating every piece of information from the old website to the new one, but now that it is done, it will be easier for us to upload information and easier for the public to access it," said Brandon Beach, a dis-

trict public affairs specialist.

The homepage Universal Resource Locator (URL) has stayed the same www.spn. usace.army.mil, but some URLs may have changed due to different URL structures and technical necessities between the old system and the new content management system. End users will need to navigate to and save the new URLs as bookmarks.

Website users can submit questions, feedback or concerns regarding the San Francisco District website to cespn-pa2@usace.army.mil.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH:

TRIBUTE TO WOMEN IN STEM FIELDS

[Photos from I-r] Nancy Ferris, Kelly Janes and Lyn Gillespie (Page design by Liviu Tanase)

By Joseph Aguila District Equal Employment Opportunity Office

arch marks the month we nationally celebrate Women's History Month. The National Women's History Project (NWHP), who considered over 100 ideas and suggestions from supporters, decided on this year's WHM theme: Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The San Francisco District celebrates this significant observance and theme by highlighting some of our very own engineers.

Kelly Janes, a Department of the Army intern, received her bachelor's in Environmental Science at Scripps College Claremont, a small liberal arts women's college. She recently finished her master's degree in Environmental Planning with a focus in water resource management from UC Berkeley and is now working in her third rotation.

Her internship opportunity would not have transpired if she didn't meet Tessa Beach, a practicing environmental planner with the San Francisco District. Janes and other likeminded college students coordinated a professional colloquium at UC Berkeley, to learn more about what they could actually do with their newly-acquired degrees.

"We were all curious as to what an environmental planner does," Janes reminisced. "Tessa came as a representative of the federal agency. She told us about upcoming internship opportunities coming out, and the district was recruiting applicants."

Janes's experience so far has been great. She said, "I'm really happy with the way the intern program is organized. I enjoy the fact that I get to do rotations, work with all the different sections, and meet with the different people in each section." She added, "I get a feel for what everyone does in the district." Janes also appreciates the free training offered through the San Francisco District.

As for Janes's most inspirational role model, she pays tribute to her last supervisor, Elizabeth Soderstorm, Ph.D., at American Rivers, a non-profit organization that protects and restores our nation's rivers and streams. "She's an incredible person. She pretty much introduced me to the environmental sector. I got my degree in environmental science, but I really didn't know what that meant because it's so broad. I didn't know how to channel my energy. Dr. Soderstorm really helped me discover that—she's inspiring."

Janes advised, "For young girls that really don't have much experience with the science and math fields, to start getting interested in it, because there are incredible things happening, and it's where all the great leaps forward are happening."

Nancy Ferris, a physical scientist, has been with the San Francisco District for over seven years. She's also the district's Federal Women's Special Observance Program manager. Ferris earned her B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Virginia and a M.S. in Environmental Science and Engineering with a concentration in Environmental Management and Policy from the University of North Carolina.

She attributes the influence to pursue the environmental sciences to her father, Clayton Miller, who was a civil engineer and hydrologist. "I grew up talking about erosion control measures and watershed health at the dinner table. I also really like math."

Though the sciences are deeply rooted in her, Ferris pays tribute to her first supervisor who hired her as her greatest role model, Laura Dwyer. "She shaped my idea of what a leader should be," she said. "She was always cool, logical, and had an incredible sense of fairness and pride in civic duty."

Ferris continued, "She took great pleasure in helping her staff be their best, even if it meant helping them leave to take a promotion elsewhere or go back to school." Ferris ended by saying, "She pointed the best characteristics she saw in me and taught me that I could make my own unique contributions to our mission by cultivating those strengths."

Ferris feels that the low participation of young women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields derives from their own fear of failure. "There is a wonderful report sponsored by the American Association of University Women called, "Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics." What I took away was that a lot of girls and women are ashamed to try something and fail. So, when they receive subtle cues about STEM homework, classes or careers being too hard, they tend to give up, so they won't be at risk of failing. Boys and men face those same subtle cues, but they seem to be more willing to risk failure." She added, "We can improve female STEM participation by reaching out and encouraging young girls to take STEM classes and actively recruit women for STEM jobs at all career levels."

Lyn Gillespie, chief of Engineering & Technical Services Division, has seen and experienced it all throughout her 20-plus years of federal service. Her unique path began at the footsteps of an economist, where she earned her B.S. in Economics from George Mason University. It was through her five years of experience in the private industry as an economist that led her to a career in engineering.

"I was doing a number of contracts working with engineers, and they'd all been lobbying that I should consider engineering as a career," Gillespie said. "It was just one of the things that happened. The field of economics I was specializing in was drying up, and some of the other things just weren't interesting to me."

Gillespie decided to change directions and went back to school. Through recommendations and advice from engineers, she pursued a second bachelor's degree, but this time in engineering. Gillespie earned her B.S. in Geological Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. She went on to earn her master's degree in Geotechnical Engineering at UC Berkeley.

"I was already heavily math-oriented," Gillespie said. "And I got along well with the other engineers and quickly grasped the things they were talking about."

Gillespie had a very interesting take on her role model, or lack thereof. "I can't honestly say there was an honest-togosh role model. There weren't really any famous women economists or women engineers that inspired me. I just wanted to be the best that I could be at whatever I was doing. I knew what I wanted and went after it."

She did, however, discover a mentor during her early career as a geotechnical engineer. "I don't normally look

upwards for informal mentors; I look for someone that knows what they are doing." Gillespie explained. "When I first started in geotechnical engineering, I had a whole lot of book smarts, but I didn't know a whole lot about the field."

"I actually went and started working with one of the field techs, who had been doing geotechnical field work for decades." Gillespie joked, "He had probably forgotten more than what I actually knew." Gillespie did admit, "I started learning from him the practical knowledge that dovetailed with my theoretical knowledge. Because of that, I became a much better engineer."

Gillespie did feel that over time society has made progress. "We've definitely made progress; there's still gender bias, but it's less prevalent and less overt than it used to be," she said. "It's been very interesting watching things as they go through time. I must admit though, I really hate the princess stuff they do these days, because it smacks them going in the wrong direction."

As for the challenges women face today, Gillespie believes that women have a lot of demands on their time. She asks, "How do you try to have the healthy work life balance when you've got children, try to build a career, and stay healthy? Eventually what happens is that you end up having to make decisions, and I think that a lot of women don't rise simply because they've made different decisions that put different priorities into career, which isn't the first priority."

Gillespie's final advice, "Know your capabilities, believe in yourself and be willing to go beyond your comfort zone. Always look for ways to continue to learn and improve your skills. It's your responsibility to pursue continuing education for yourself. Don't count on your employer to provide it and always be careful about what you put on social media."

Army News America's Army—Our Profession

Release Department of the Army

merica's Army—Our Profession is a yearlong education and training program intended to reaffirm our understanding of the Army Profession and to motivate our recommitment to upholding the Army ethic.

The program, created by Army Training and Doctrine Command's Combined Arms Center consists of three major efforts: professional development training, Army Profession seminars and Master Army Profession and Ethic Trainer courses.

There are four quarterly themes to guide professional development programs: standards and discipline, customs, courtesies and traditions, military expertise, and trust. Organizations can also host a two-hour Army Profession seminar, provided by the Center for Army Profession and Ethic (CAPE), which will familiarize leaders with doctrine and the resources available to implement their own sessions.

Whatever the future holds, the Army Profession must exhibit the five essential characteristics of trust, military expertise, honorable service, esprit de corps and stewardship in order to carry out its mission and maintain the sacred bond it has with the American people it serves. Each individual's part as an Army professional is to be certified in character, competence and commitment.

As the Army launches America's Army—Our Profession, it entrusts Soldiers to continually pursue an understanding

of their identity as members of the Army Profession and an embodiment of the values that guide their decision-making and behavior. Each Soldier has the awesome responsibility of ensuring the profession maintains the trust of American people.

The American people trust the Army for good reason. The Army's performance and sacrifice throughout our history, including the most recent decade of war, earned this trust. The profession cannot take that trust for granted. Members of the Army Profession must continually assess themselves and their performance to ensure they adhere to the highest standards expected of them—in any and every situation.

Start the training modules at: http://cape.army.mil

SAGE helps planners build coastal resilience

By Brandon Beach District Public Affairs Office

The Institute for Water Resources, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers research facility in Alexandria, Va., has begun unveiling a new planning process for building coastal resiliency.

Referred to as SAGE, Strategic Approach to Geomorphic Engineering, the new initiative aims to transition Corps thinking from gray (i.e. engineered structures like seawalls and breakwaters) to green solutions. Janet Cushing, a project manager at IWR, met with members of SPN's Planning

members of SPN's Planning Branch March 21 to discuss how natural ecosystems can protect coastal communities and shorelines.

"Traditional ways of protecting our coasts isn't working" said Cushing. "Coming up with hybrid solutions to deal with coastal resilience is really the point of SAGE. It's a set of solutions that protect the economy, communities and the ecology."

Janet Cushing meets with members of the district's Planning Branch March 21.

Women & STEM cont ...

was possible as I was making big life decisions 20 years ago.

Before I started university, I did a two-year on-the-job training as a lab technical assistant at a large food company in Germany. A female mentor encouraged me and helped me make the connection between science, technology and innovation. She explained how my work could help companies grow the top and bottom line and build a sustainable future. ...

Mentors play a critical role in bringing new people—and particularly women—to careers in STEM. Female leaders must be role models to advocate for the possibilities of STEM education and support programs that inspire more of our best and brightest students, especially those from underrepresented or disadvantaged groups, to study in STEM fields. In my role, I am able to mentor young employees and encourage students to see STEM in a different light. ...

Read the full version of this commentary online at http://huff.to/Xo3fOe

Employee News

Hails & Farewells

• Paul Mason, SPN Cost Engineering Section chief, accepted a position

in Germany at the Army Corps of Engineers European District. Alles Gute, Paul!

• In February, Abbie Loftus, new Re-

Loftus source Management Division chief, joined SPN. Welcome to the team!

Special Recognition

• On March 22, Anicia Cuevas, USACE Logistics supply tech, worked with the San Francisco School District to donate 44 pieces of excess computer equipment valued at \$55,136 in support of grades K-12.

• Jack Hogan, SPN hydraulic engineer, was selected to participate in the implementation of the national Corps Water Management System (CWMS) program. Over the next year, Hogan will be a member of a virtual team to develop a CWMS model for the Tulare Lake watershed, which is one of eight pilot projects.